



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S OMBUDSMAN

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Date: May 15, 2002

To: Stakeholders, Community Leaders and Interested Parties

From: Vickie Wallen, Director, Office of the Family and Children's Ombudsman

Re: Changes at OFCO

It is with mixed emotions that I formally announce my departure from OFCO. I am resigning my position effective July 2, 2002, to care for my newly adopted son.

I will greatly miss the work, my talented and committed OFCO colleagues, and the leaders and community members I have been privileged to work with over the past five-and-a-half years. The creation and establishment of this office has been the biggest challenge of my professional life, and the most satisfying. I continue to believe – more strongly than ever – in the mission of this office. Together, we have impacted the lives of children and families, and the system that serves them, in very positive ways.

Although I am leaving, much work remains to be done, and I am calling on you once again to assist this office. Your help will be critical in ensuring that the search for a new Director is successful. I have appended the job announcement to this memo, and hope you will take the time to review it and share it with members of your community. We will be assisted in this search by Executive Search Services (ESS), a division of our state's Department of Personnel. Judith Brighton of ESS may be contacting you to follow up on this matter. If you know of qualified professionals who should be considered for this position, or consulted as sources, please contact Judith at (360) 664-1955 or by e-mail at judithb@dop.wa.gov.

The next Director will be found within our family and children's community, and I want to thank you in advance for your assistance in this important search effort.

It has been my honor to work with you over the past years. Many thanks for your time, energy and for all you do in the service of the families and children of the state of Washington.